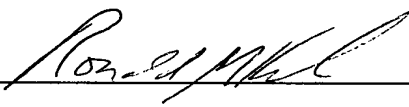


Claims 1, 2, 7/1 and 7/2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Laid-Open Utility Model 100976/1988. Claims 3 and 7/3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Laid Open Model 100976/1988 in view of Richter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,925,694). Claims 4-6 and 7/4-7/6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Laid Open Model 100976/1988 in view of Richter et al. and Nakano et al. (JP 56038964 A). Claims 1-7 have been canceled and claims 8-14 have been added to more clearly and particularly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application as amended is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the application.

If there are any additional fees required by this communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, Account No. 33498.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pearne & Gordon LLP

By:   
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